

EUROPEAN MISSION
6 FRANKFURT/MAIN 9, GERMANY
BETTINASTRASSE 65

TELEGRAM ADDRESS:
QUICKMERE FRANKFURT/M.

May 28, 1965

TELEPHONE

Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Personal - Confidential

Ezra

The Honourable J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For eight years as Secretary of Agriculture I had a close association with President Eisenhower. My gratitude for his support of my fight for a free agriculture was expressed in my book, CROSSFIRE. When my son Reed was making his year long investigation of the John Birch Society during which time I was making some investigation myself, Reed ask Mr. Welch to send me a copy of the yet unpublished confidential letter on Eisenhower. This he did and indicated that he would allow me to read the letter. I have read the letter a couple of times and have also read the published edition, now available in paperback and in book form, entitled THE POLITICIAN, which is fully documented with footnotes which were not a part of the original letter. Toward the close of the book Mr. Welch lists three alternatives which he feels might explain President Eisenhower's tragic dealings with the Communists. In essence he indicates that Mr. Eisenhower was either ignorant, a politician, or consciously aiding the communist conspiracy. Mr. Welch does not argue with anyone who might pick any of the three alternatives because he feels that they all come to the same end regardless of which one is chosen, namely tragedy. In other words, what difference does it make if your house is burned down by an ignorant man, a person who wants to get warm fast, or an arsonist.

Of course before the judgement bar of God there is a difference between ignorance and arson, but as far as one's home is concerned and even more important, as far as this Republic is concerned, there is little difference. Mr. Eisenhower, to his credit, backed me up over 90% of the time in my fight for a free agriculture. In other areas we had differences. I presume I will never know in this life why he did some of the things he did which gave help to the conspiracy. It is not my divine prerogative to know the motives of man. It is easier however, to judge the consequences of man's actions.

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In my study of the conspiracy which I am sure is weak compared with your own, the consequences of Mr. Eisenhower's actions in dealing with the Communists have been tragic. After having read the **POLITICIAN** the first time I inscribed these words on the flyleaf at the back of the copy.

"Note 3-25-63

Have just finished this shocking volume. About a year ago I read an earlier edition of the **POLITICIAN** without the prologue, the last chapter, Epilogue, Bibliography or Index. These have made the volume more compelling and useful.

While I do not agree with all or the extent of some of the author's conclusions, one must agree that the documented record makes the thesis of the book most convincing.

How can a man who seems to be so strong for Christian principles and basic American concepts be so effectively used as a tool to serve the communist conspiracy? I believe the answer is found in the fact that these God-less communist conspirators and their fellow travelers are masters of deceit-who deceive the very elect.

How our people need to be alerted and informed. To this end this book should be made available under paper cover at not to exceed \$1.00 for maximum distribution and also run serially in a national magazine such as "U. S. News & World Report." The story must be told even at the risk of destroying the influence of men who are widely respected and loved by the American people. The stakes are high. Freedom and survival are the issues.

/s/ E. T. B."

While I do not agree with Robert Welch in everything he says anymore than I could expect him to agree with all I say, none of us find perfection in mortal life. However, I have been amazed at the uncanny accuracy of Mr. Welch in calling the shots on the Communists, particularly among their international agents. In fact it appears to me that one of the things that disturbs the Liberals the most about Mr. Welch is that he has been too right too soon too often, as he was about Castro, Juan Bosch, Ben Bella, Betancourt, Sukarno, etc., etc. These were not guesses made by Mr. Welch. These were straight-thinking conclusions, made after he had compiled substantial incriminating evidence. I know you have expressed yourself, or so it was reported, regarding Mr. Welch recently at a news conference. While I can not agree with all of Mr. Welch's own personal conclusions regarding certain men, it is difficult to argue with his facts.

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I know of course that the Communists don't want us to organize and do anything to stop them until we can find the perfect organization led by the perfect individual with the perfect plan and perfect followers. Of course they figure that if people wait long enough they will have waited too long. The leadership program, the members and the accomplishments of the John Birch Society have been impressive to me. It has also been impressive that a number of former F.B.I. officials, counterspys, intelligence officers, and others who have associated in like occupations have either endorsed or joined the John Birch Society.

While Mr. Welch is the leader of the Society, his book, the *POLITICIAN*, is I understand his own private writing and is not a part of the official publications of the Society. The book has been printed privately by Mr. Welch. I know how very busy you must be, but I do hope you have the opportunity to read through this latest edition of the *POLITICIAN*, which I send you with my sincere compliments.

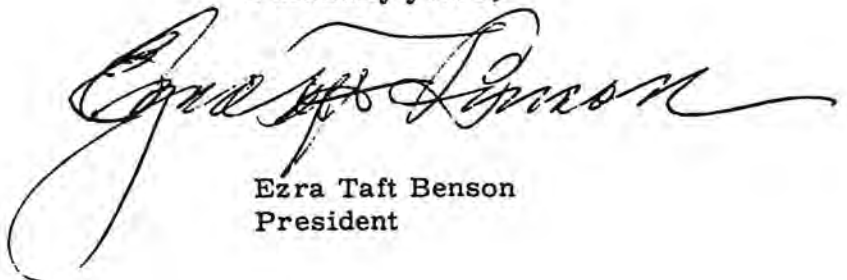
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I realize that only in the next life will we fully appreciate all you have done to preserve freedom in this country. I am most grateful for your exposure of the communist conspiracy and for the wonderful organization you have established in the F.B.I. I pray that your courage will continue and that your hand will be blessed and prospered in all that you do to preserve our Constitutional Republic.

You have my faith and prayers, confidence and gratitude, which are I am sure joined with those of thousands of Americans. As you probably recall the second phone call I made after I had been asked to serve as Secretary of Agriculture, was directly to you. I am most anxious to help in my small way to preserve our heritage, bequeathed to us by our founding fathers. If you have any counsel or suggestions for me at any time in our fight to preserve freedom, I hope you will feel free to make them.

God bless you.

Faithfully yours,



Ezra Taft Benson
President

ETB:rt
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